

# ACACIA AFRICA

Updated  
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FOR ALL 2009  
DEPARTURES

## SOUTH EAST ADVENTURE (ALTERNATIVE) – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code **SEAA32**

**NAIROBI – JOHANNESBURG**

**32 DAYS**

Tour Departure – **08:00**

Pre-departure Meeting – **18:00 day prior to departure**

### HIGHLIGHTS

Masai Mara Game Reserve  
Great Rift Valley  
Meserani Snake Park  
Masai Village Walk  
Serengeti National Park  
Olduvai Gorge  
Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area  
Zanzibar  
Lake Malawi  
Livingstone – Victoria Falls  
Chobe National Park  
Okavango Delta  
Khama Rhino Sanctuary



**An alternative South East Adventure! Embark on a journey through the rich game parks, tropical beaches and welcoming smiles of Eastern Africa. Mix this with stunning scenery and adrenaline filled activities at Victoria Falls and finish with an adventure through the watery paradise of the Okavango Delta. A perfect recipe for an unforgettable African experience.**

### INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore treat the following as a guide only.

**Duration:** 32 Days  
**Countries visited:** Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, South Africa

#### DAY 1 - 3

Masai Mara Game Reserve - Arusha

Kenya is a welcoming country and the first words that you will hear and come to know is the Swahili greeting, 'Jambo' (hello), often followed by 'Hakuna matata' (no problem!). We depart Kenya's burgeoning capital, Nairobi, and make our way across the wide Rift Valley to the famous Masai Mara Game Reserve via the Masai town of Narok. We spend two nights camping on the edge of the park and spend our days exploring the park on afternoon and morning game drives. The 'Mara' is the Africa of Hollywood films; sweeping grassy plains, low slung Acacia trees and small coppices of vegetation where perhaps a leopard lurks. The park's plains are crossed every year from July to October by large herds of wildebeest, zebra and other hoofed animals that migrate from the adjoining Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, on a continuous circular migration. Predators (lion, cheetah) and scavengers (hyaena, vultures) follow the huge herds and together form a spectacular sight. But the Mara is excellent for game viewing at any time of year and with luck we hope to spot some, if not all, of the Big 5 - elephant, lion, rhino, buffalo and leopard as well as an inspiring array of other African animals and birdlife.

From the Mara, we back across the Rift Valley to Nairobi, where we usually stay overnight, on our way south into Tanzania.

#### **DAY 4- 8**

Arusha, Serengeti National Park,  
Olduvai Gorge, Ngorongoro Crater

After crossing the border, we stop at Arusha, Tanzania's 'safari capital'. Arusha is a thriving city, bustling with colourful markets, vehicles and people, all existing in the shadow of the brooding Mt. Meru (4556m). After exploring the curio markets, we head to our camp outside of Arusha on the Masai plains. Here, there is the opportunity to take a walk or camel ride to a local Masai village, get wrapped up by some African snakes at the informative Snake Park and enjoy the Tanzanian hospitality at its best in the lively bar.

Leaving here, we begin our two night/three day excursion by 4x4 vehicle to Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater. The wide plains and flat, expansive horizons of the Serengeti is perhaps one of the most evocative images of Africa. The Serengeti is flatter and larger than the Mara, and the name 'Serengeti' comes from the Masai word Siringitu – 'the place where the land moves on forever'. Game viewing here is fantastic and camping out in an unfenced campsite where lion and hyena roam nearby, an unforgettable experience.

We leave the Serengeti to head east via Olduvai Gorge, where remains of early man have been found, to the Ngorongoro Crater. Here we spend the night camping near the rim. At 326 sq km it is Africa's largest intact caldera and a World Heritage Site, famous for its staggering concentration of African animals. From the rim at 2400m, we enjoy the sweeping view of the crater floor some 700m below. At dawn on the following morning, we drive down the steep access road into the crater for unrivalled game driving.

#### **DAY 9 - 13**

Dar es Salaam - Zanzibar

We return for a night in Arusha before continuing east past the shadow of Mt Kilimanjaro (Africa's highest peak at 5895m) to Dar es Salaam. 'Dar' is Tanzania's main port and a hub of commerce and industry. We set up camp on the beach just outside the city, browse the curio markets - best known for ebony wood - and prepare for our trip to Zanzibar.

Zanzibar ('the 'Spice Island') is an island of sandy, palm fringed beaches, romantic winding cobbled alleys and lush tropical forests. It also has an intriguing past. The island displays middle eastern influences, having once been a major trading centre of spices and slaves to Arabia and was a base for many of the 19<sup>th</sup> century explorers of Africa, such as Speke, Burton and Livingstone.

Our time on the island is not structured so you can choose what you would like to do. Your tour leader will help advise on activities available and book your accommodation before arrival. The best way to see the Stone Town is on foot, to explore its bazaars, shops and alleyways. Spices are grown in plantations outside of Stone Town that can be visited on a Spice Tour. Meanwhile, white sand and sparkling blue sea awaits on the northern beaches where you can snorkel and dive the reefs, eat fresh seafood or just relax in a hammock under a palm tree.

#### **DAY 14 - 19**

Mikumi National Park – Lake Malawi Beaches

We cross back to the African mainland and spend a further night in Dar es Salaam before driving across country towards Malawi, passing through the small Mikumi National Park on the way. We enter Malawi - the 'warm heart' of Africa – at its northern tip and almost immediately catch a glimpse of the enormous Lake Malawi. Covering almost a fifth of the country's area, the lake provides a source of livelihood for many of the Malawi people and fishermen, fish traders as well as canoe and net makers are common sights along the shoreline.

Malawi's highlights are its wonderfully peaceful beaches and welcoming people and we take advantage of this by camping beside the lake for a few days. There is usually a range of water sports including scuba diving available. You will also have the opportunity to meet some of the Malawi people, from the communities near the beach. Malawians are well known amongst travellers as being amongst the friendliest in Africa.

#### **DAY 20 - 25**

Lusaka – Livingstone & Victoria Falls

Leaving the lake we head into Zambia, cross the mighty Luangwa River and pass through the capital city, Lusaka. We continue to Livingstone near Victoria Falls arriving on day 22 and setting up camp on the banks of the Zambezi River. Free time is given here, allowing you to take full advantage of the wide range of optional activities on offer in the region. This usually includes white water rafting, bungee jumping, abseiling, gorge swinging, canoeing, elephant and horse riding, game drives and scenic flights (by helicopter or small plane). Naturally a visit to the Victoria Falls themselves is a 'must'. At over a mile wide and 100m deep, the 'Falls' is the

largest curtain of falling water in the world. Depending on the time of year the spray from the Falls can be seen from 20 or 30 kilometres - hence the local name Mosi au Tunya – the 'smoke that thunders'.

**DAY 26 - 27**  
Livingstone – Chobe National Park

From Livingstone, we head to the Chobe National Park, in the northern corner of Botswana. This is home to some of the largest populations of elephant in all of Africa, as well as lion and abundant birdlife. In the late afternoon, you may like to take a Fish Eagle Cruise on the Chobe River to see hippos in the water and hopefully buffalo or elephant coming to the river for a late afternoon drink. The following morning there is the chance to take an optional morning game drive before we leave the park and head south to Maun for the night.

**DAY 28 - 32**  
Maun, Okavango Delta,  
Khama Rhino Sanctuary, Johannesburg

From Maun we venture into the watery world of the Okavango Delta, a vast area of swamps and grassy islands. We enter in mokoros (traditional dug out canoes), punted through the reed filled channels by our expert local guides. There is a wealth of wildlife to be seen in this exciting environment from hippos and crocodiles to elephant, lion, antelope, buffalo and a dazzling array of birdlife. We enjoy foot safaris on the islands and camp in wild camps under the stars at night. Leaving the Okavango on the third day, we have another night in Maun before continuing south. We stop in southern Botswana to enjoy a game drive through the special Khama Sanctuary, set up to help preserve populations of black and white rhino. From here we savour our final leg of the journey, crossing into South Africa and driving down to Johannesburg, where the tour officially ends.

**NB<sup>1</sup>** As we leave the truck on the mainland, when we go to Zanzibar food and accommodation is not included and free time is yours to enjoy the island's activities. Your tour leader will assist the group by booking suitable and well priced accommodation both in Stone Town and on the beach (budget approx \$20-35 per night), unless you would like to book something independently in advance.

**NB<sup>2</sup>** Between tours in Livingstone meals and accommodation are not covered from the night of day 24 to the morning of day 26 and will need to be covered locally. For all other times, for the sake of practicality, meals in the Livingstone/Victoria Falls area are restricted to breakfasts. This allows you to take on half day or full day activities (some of which include lunch) without having to be back with the group at mealtimes. The Waterfront camp has a beautiful restaurant, overlooking the Zambezi which offers a good selection of reasonably priced meals and snacks throughout the day (we suggest you allow US\$15 per day). Relax and enjoy these few days at your own leisure.

## TOUR INFORMATION

**Travelling overland is great fun, but it can also be challenging! This is a participation tour and your help will be needed in setting up the camp each night and assisting (usually on a rota basis) with the various day to day campsite duties, such as shopping, cooking and keeping the truck and camp tidy. But don't worry it's not all hard work and it's a great way to meet the local people and get to know your fellow travellers. Your contribution benefits the success of the tour - most people find the greater their involvement, the greater their enjoyment of the whole trip.**

**Africa is an adventure destination and travelling here is not always predictable so be prepared to "expect the unexpected" in difficulties or delays which might come our way! However, you'll soon find that the diversity of the African landscape, the wildlife and the communities we pass on our way, make the sometimes rough travel and long driving days worthwhile.**

**Come with a sense of adventure and a flexible attitude and you will be sure to enjoy your Acacia overland tour across this amazing continent.**

### TOUR STYLE

Acacia Overland Tour. Please note this tour comprises of the Overland tour, South East Adventure (SEA31) and the Small Group Safari, Okavango Wilderness Trail (OWT7)

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

Fully equipped safari vehicles, camping and cooking equipment, all road tolls and vehicle taxes, transport, sleeping mattress, services of driver and tour leader, meals as indicated, Snake Park entrance, Masai Village walk, Malawi Cultural Village walk and Guided visit of Victoria Falls

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Local Payment excursions, visas, travel insurance, flights, departure taxes, airport transfers, sleeping bag, optional activities, drinks, tips & items of a personal nature and meals and accommodation on Zanzibar (3 nts. Days 10 - 12) and Livingstone meals & accommodation (2 nts. Days 24 & 25)

## ACCOMMODATION

We use 2-person dome tents with fly sheets, built in ground sheets, zip-up insect screens and thick foam sleeping mattresses. We mainly use designated campsites, which mostly have permanent wash and shower facilities, electricity points and sometimes even a small shop and bar.

## TRANSPORT

24-seater, self contained, custom-built safari truck with onboard tables, plug sockets, freezers, library, i-pod jack, safety features and 70-litre individual lockers. In some of the national parks we may use smaller more suitable vehicles (typically, 4x4 or safari vans). From day 26 onwards we use a comfortable minibus or minivan.

## MEALS

Meals included are – Breakfast (B) x26, Lunch (L) x20, Dinner (D) x24

These meals are prepared in camp by the group and help preparing the meals is invited. Most dietary requirements can be catered for on the road. Please ensure you inform Acacia of any special requirements when you book or at your earliest convenience.

## GAME PARK VISITS

In order to maximise the quality of game driving and to comply with local authority rulings, some of our National Park visits and game viewing is carried out using services provided by local African ground handlers. While enhancing our experience it also allows us opportunity to contribute at a 'grassroots' level to local economies, from which local people benefit. These local services are included in the Local Payment.

## TOUR PREPARATION

### BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent your booking documents and a pre-departure booklet with detailed information to help you prepare for your trip. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving details of your joining hotel. Nairobi and Johannesburg are well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

### JOINING INFORMATION

This tour starts in Nairobi. **The pre-departure meeting is held at 18:00** on the evening prior to departure and **the tour begins at 08:00 on day 1**. It ends on arrival in **Johannesburg** in the late afternoon of **day 32**.

Meeting point in **Nairobi**:

Address:

**Boulevard Hotel**

Harry Thuku Rd

PO Box 42831

Nairobi

Contact details:

Tel. +245 2 337221 / 227567/8/9

Fax +245 2 334071

E-mail:

[hotel@hotelboulevardkenya.com](mailto:hotel@hotelboulevardkenya.com)

Pre-dep. meeting:

18:30 prior to departure day

Tour start time:

08:00 on day 1

Tour end point in **Johannesburg**:

Address:

**Backpackers Ritz**

1A North Rd

Dunkeld West

Johannesburg

Contact details:

Tel. +27 11 325 7125/2520

Fax +27 11 325 2521

E-mail:

[ritz@iafrica.com](mailto:ritz@iafrica.com)

Tour end time:

Late afternoon/ early evening of day 32

### EXTENDING YOUR STAY

We recommend you stay in Nairobi the night prior to departure as the tour departs early on day 1. We also recommend you book a night in Johannesburg at the end of the tour as final day travel delays can interfere with evening flight times. Any additional nights can be booked on a direct pay basis. See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. These prices may be subject to change so please contact Acacia or your agent to check current prices.

Description	Price	Description	Price (ZAR)
<b>Nairobi</b>		<b>Johannesburg</b>	
Pre tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn – B&B	Ksh3758	Post tour accommodation – dorm pp/pn	R100
Pre tour accommodation – Single pp/pn – B&B	Ksh5785	Post tour accommodation – twin pp/pn	R140
Pre tour accommodation – Triple pp/pn – B&B	Ksh8990	Post tour accommodation – single pp/n	R180

## WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg limit. It should be brought in a soft holdall or rucksack along with a smaller day bag. You will need to bring a mixture of lightweight clothing and warm clothing for evenings and early morning game drives. You also require a sleeping bag (and small pillow if preferred). We recommended you pack a small torch or headlamp, mosquito spray and a money pouch/ belt that is easily hidden. Please try to avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use your hotel safe to store the bulk of your money, passport, and airline tickets. A full 'What to Bring' list is included in our **pre-departure booklet**, sent out when you book this tour.

## VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
Kenya	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R
Tanzania	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R
Malawi	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R
Zambia	R	R	R	R	R	R	-	R	C	R
Botswana	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	-
S. Africa	R	R	R	R	-	R	-	-	*	R

C = Compulsory, R = Recommended, \* = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

## VISA REQUIRMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk) For other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
Kenya	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tanzania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Malawi	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Zambia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Botswana	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
S. Africa	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

## MONEY MATTERS

### PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$15-20 per day. Also keep US\$ cash for any relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can then be transferred into local currency on arrival. In East Africa especially, it is best to bring US dollars, but make sure they are **clean, post-2001 edition notes**. Older or dirty notes may not be accepted.
- **Currencies:** Kenya – Kenyan Shilling; Tanzania – Tanzanian Shilling; Malawi – Malawian Kwacha; Zambia - Zambian Kwacha; Botswana – Pula; South Africa - Rand
- **ATM machines** are found in most major cities but are sometimes unreliable.
- **Credit cards** are useful for paying for optional activities in Zanzibar. They may be suitable to use in some major centres for cash advances but please do not rely on them as the charges for using cards are high by Western standards.
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

### LOCAL PAYMENT

A Local Payment (LP) is to be paid to your tour leader at the pre -departure meeting. The LP fund is administered by the tour leader in conjunction with the group and covers most meals, all game drives using our own vehicle, campsite fees and meals prepared at the truck (usually two or three per day). You can choose to either pay the Basic Local Payment and pay for your excursions along the way, or pay for everything up front in the Fully Inclusive Local Payment.

Payment must be made in **US\$ cash in clean, post-2001 edition notes**. Traveller's cheques and credit cards are **not** accepted. The LP amounts set out in the brochure are estimates of local costs at the time of printing. It is subject to inflation, exchange rate changes and local price rises. These may vary from the amounts set out and on the rare occasion where there is a shortfall, passengers will be asked to contribute further. Conversely, where there is a surplus of LP funds at the end of the tour, it will be refunded equally amongst all passengers.

Please note that some of your Local Payment is to be saved and paid to your new tour leader at Livingstone for the final week of your tour. For more details see the brochure or ask Acacia or your agent.

## TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff, including your tour leader and driver, at the end of a tour for services rendered. This is at your own discretion.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities, where possible. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in US\$ unless otherwise stated. subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price	Activity	Price
<b>Masai Mara</b>		<b>Livingstone</b>	
Village visit	\$25	Gorge Swing/ Abseiling (half day)	\$75/ 95
<b>Tanzania</b>		Zambezi Jet Boating & Cable Car	\$95
Serengeti Balloon Ride	\$499	Horse Riding	\$75
Camel Ride	\$30	Half day/ Full day Canoe Safari	\$95/ \$135
<b>Zanzibar (Tanzania)</b>		Elephant Interaction	\$50
Scuba Diving (Mnemba island)	\$150	White Water Rafting/ Riverboarding	\$130/ \$155
Snorkelling Day Trip	\$30-45	Flight over the Falls	£130
Accommodation & Food (per day)	\$35	Zambezi Sunset Cruise	\$45
Spice Tour	\$20	Lion Encounter	\$115
Dolphin excursion	\$35	Crocodile Farm	\$20
<b>Malawi</b>		<b>Botswana</b>	
Snorkelling	\$15	Okavango scenic flight per 5-seater plane	\$375
Scuba Diving	\$35	<b>South Africa</b>	
Horse Riding (half day)	\$45	Kruger Night drive	R320

## INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please contact Acacia for more information.

## Country Information - KENYA

### Facts

Capital: Nairobi (from the Masai word 'sweet water' – once a major watering hole)  
Size: 582 646 sq km / 362 116 sq miles  
Population: 36,913,721 (Sept. 07)  
Groups: Kikuyu, Luhya, Luo, Kalenjin, Kamba, Kisii, Meru, non-African (Asian, European, and Arab)  
Languages: English, Swahili, Kikuyu, Luo, Kikamba, Masai, Samburu  
Local time: GMT +3  
Seasons: Dry (June-October), short rainfalls (October-December) and long rainfalls (March-June)  
Currency: 1 Kenyan Shilling (KES) = 100 Cents  
Telephone: Country code 254, international access code 00  
Electricity: 240 V / 50 Hz, rectangular blade plug

Kenya has one of the most diverse and colourful collections of tribal people found anywhere on the continent. The country has been a major migratory pathway for millennia. In the 16th Century most of the Swahili trading towns, including Mombasa, were either sacked or occupied by the Portuguese and this marked the end of the Arab monopoly of the Indian Ocean trade. Kenya straddles the equator and covers an area of 582,646 sq kilometres, which includes around 13,600 sq kilometres of inland lakes. Kenya's population of around 37 million is made up almost entirely of Africans. There are more than 70 tribal groups and distinctions among them are already blurred with western cultural values being adopted. Most of the African population is Christian whereas the Asian population are a mix of Muslim, Hindu and Sikh. English and Swahili are the official languages, however there are many other major tribal languages spoken.

## Points of Interest

### Masai Mara Game Reserve

The Masai Mara Game Reserve is often abbreviated as 'the Mara' meaning 'mottled' – due to its patchy landscape. It is coined by gently rolling hills, woodland and acacia trees and watered by two rivers, the Mara and Talek.

There are no fences between the Masai Mara and the bordering Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, so large numbers of animals roam freely between the two parks. The most dramatic spectacle of the area is the **migration of zebra and wildebeest**. Every year in May, they leave the dry south in herds of thousands and head first west and then north to the greener grasses. Lion, cheetah, hyena and wild dog follow the wildebeest and zebra, making sure that only the fittest survive. In November, when the grazing is finished in the north, this army of animals surges back to the now green pastures of the south where they calve and mate before starting the entire cycle again.

You will also be likely to spot the **Big 5** here - buffalo, elephant, rhino, lion and leopard. It's little known but the term originally referred to the 5 large animals that proved the most challenging to early colonial hunters – and therefore became a much sort after prize. Thankfully, visitors today prefer to shoot these animals with cameras rather than guns and they make a very exciting find in the bush. The park also has very healthy populations of cheetah, zebra, giraffe, hippo, hyena, jackal, eland, crocodile and many different birds.

Several sub-tribes of the **Masai people** live within the Masai Mara Game Reserve. They are a proud semi-nomadic, non-hunting people who live and raise their cattle in harmony with the surrounding wildlife. Despite the growth of modern civilisation, the Masai have largely managed to maintain their traditional ways.

### Useful Swahili Words

<b>Hello</b>	Jambo	<b>Yes</b>	Ndiyo
<b>How are you?</b>	Habari gain?	<b>No</b>	Hapana
<b>Thank you</b>	Ahsante	<b>Bring here</b>	Lethe hapa
<b>Go away</b>	Enda	<b>Today</b>	Leo
<b>Slowly</b>	Pole pole	<b>Tomorrow</b>	Kesho
<b>Coffee</b>	Kahawa	<b>To sleep</b>	Kulala
<b>Tea</b>	Chai	<b>Goodbye</b>	Kwaheri
<b>Milk</b>	Maziwa	<b>How much?</b>	Ngapi?
<b>Water</b>	Maji	<b>Come here</b>	Njoo hapa
<b>Sugar</b>	Sukari	<b>Welcome again</b>	Karibu tena
<b>Food</b>	Chakula	<b>See you</b>	Tutaonana
<b>Please</b>	Tafadali	<b>No, thanks</b>	Hapana sante

### Country Information - TANZANIA

#### Facts

Capital:	Dodoma
Size:	945 087 sq km / 364 900 sq
Population:	36,766,356 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Mainland: native African (mostly Bantu tribes), other (Asian, European, Arab) Zanzibar: Arab, native African, mixed Arab and native African
Languages:	Swahili, English, Nyamwezi, Arabic

Local time: GMT + 3  
Seasons: Dry (January-March, July-October), short rains (November/December), long rains (April-June)  
Currency: 1 Tanzanian Shilling  
Telephone: Country code 255 , international access code 00  
Electricity: 230 V / 50 Hz, round pins with ground or rectangular blade plug

The United Republic of Tanzania (the largest country in East Africa, including the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) came into existence in 1964, three years after the initial independence from Britain by Tanzania. Although it shares many characteristics with its northern neighbour (especially the Swahili culture and language), it has developed along more socialist lines than has Kenya, and has not been as receptive toward foreign investment. Possibly for this reason Tanzania has not had the growth in industry that Kenya has enjoyed and the casual visitor will notice many differences of this nature between the two countries. However, Tanzania's game parks are - if anything - even better known than those of Kenya. The Serengeti National Park and neighbouring Ngorongoro Conservation Area are truly world renowned, as is Africa's highest peak Mount Kilimanjaro. All of these highlights are within easy reach of Nairobi, attracting many tourists and earning Tanzania much needed foreign exchange.

## Points of Interest

### Serengeti National Park

Of all the wildlife sanctuaries in Africa, the Serengeti is probably the most famous. With 14,763 square kilometres (the size of Northern Ireland) and no fences between the adjacent game parks, it is also one of the biggest. No wonder the Masai call it 'serengeti' – meaning 'endless plains'. Its **landscape**, formed by volcanic activity, varies from grass plains in the south, savannah in the centre and hilly, grassland in the north to extensive woodland and black clay plains in the west. Small rivers, lakes and swamps are scattered throughout. Each area has its own particular atmosphere and wildlife.

The **wildlife** here comes in large numbers: 1,3-million wildebeests, 200,000 zebras, 1,500 lions, 1,000 elephants, 280,000 Thompson's gazelles, 25,000 buffalos, 500 species of birds, 72,000 topis, 32,000 Grant's gazelles, 8,500 giraffes and 10,000 elands.

The highlight is the **annual migration of zebra and wildebeest**. Every year in May, they leave the dry south in herds of thousands and head to the greener north and west. Lion, cheetah, hyena and wild dog follow the wildebeest and zebra, making sure that only the fittest survive. In November, when the grazing is finished in the north, this army of animals surges back to the now green pastures of the south where they calve and mate before starting the entire cycle again.

### Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area

Located between the Serengeti and Lake Manyara, this 8 300 sq kilometres big conservation area is home to the famous volcanic **Ngorongoro Crater** which is the largest unbroken caldera in the world and a World Heritage Site. The crater, which is 610 metres deep and 260 km wide, hosts almost any animal species found in East Africa. Most of the **25,000 larger animals** within the crater itself are zebra and wildebeest, but there are also about 20 black rhinos and 100 lions, including the marvellous black-maned males. The crater floor also has a soda lake which is home to flamingos and other water birds. Besides these, a whole array of species lives in the crater: leopard, cheetah, hyena, elephant, warthog, impala, buffalo, hartebeest, eland, various antelope and birds. The rim of the crater, where all of the lodges are located, offers spectacular views over this enclosed Garden of Eden.

### Olduvai Gorge

The name Olduvai derives from a misspelling of Oldupai, the correct Masai word for this region which is named after a wild sisal plant fibre growing in the gorge. The gorge is a steep sided long ravine and forms part of the Great Rift Valley. Located between the Serengeti and Ngorongoro, this is the place where **Mary and Louis Leakey** discovered **early remains of mankind** in the late 1950's and later an **ancient human footprint**. It is therefore also called the '**Cradle of Mankind**' - as the findings suggest that our species first evolved in this area.

### Arusha

Since most safaris start from here, Arusha is nicknamed the '**safari capital**' as it is the gateway to the Serengeti, Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Park. Nestling at the bottom of Mount Nero, Tanzania's third highest peak, Arusha is a fast growing town with good views of Mount Kilimanjaro. North of town, you can find authentic Masai villages.

## Zanzibar

Zanzibar is Tanzania's **island getaway**. It has a colourful history, spice plantations and **beautiful beaches**. Zanzibar was once a trading centre for spices and slaves and a base for 19<sup>th</sup> century explorers such as Speke, Burton and Livingstone. Over the centuries, Zanzibar traded with the people of the Arabian peninsula who arrived on dhow sailboats with the annual trade winds. The Arab influence is evident in the unique architecture and diverse street stall offerings of the capital, Stone Town. In fact the Arab influence can be seen right along the East African coast with the Swahili language and culture displaying the mix of Arab and African cultures over the centuries.

The capital **Stone Town** with its intriguing alleyways and markets is an interesting mix of cultures and known for its intricately carved wooden doors. Make sure to go on a **Spice Tour** where you will learn everything about, well, spices. Other trips include swimming with dolphins or snorkelling/diving around the island.

## Country Information - MALAWI

### Facts

Capital:	Lilongwe
Size:	118 484 sq km / 45 747 sq miles
Population:	12,158,924 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Chewa, Nyanja, Tumbuka, Yao, Lomwe, Sena, Tonga, Ngoni, Ngonde, Asian, European
Languages:	English, Chichewa
Local time:	GMT + 2
Seasons:	Rainy season (November to May)
Currency:	1 Malawian Kwacha = 100 Tambala
Telephone:	Country code 265, international access code 101
Electricity:	220 V / 230 V / 240 V / 50 Hz, rectangular blade plug

Established in 1891, the British protectorate of Nyasaland became the independent nation of Malawi in 1964. The Republic of Malawi is in Southern Africa. Countries bordering Malawi are Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. Lilongwe is the capital of Malawi and Blantyre the largest city, is an important commercial and industrial centre. Malawi's terrain consists of plateau and mountains. Lake Malawi is drained by the Shire River, a tributary of the Zambezi. Lake Malawi (600 kilometres long) is one of Africa's largest lakes. Other lakes in Malawi include Lake Chilwa and Lake Malombe. Together Malawi's lakes cover around one-fifth of the country. Malawi has a sub-tropical climate. The rainy season runs from November to May. The lakes are home to hundreds of species of fish. Perhaps the most famous is the cichlid family of fish. The lakes are also the habitat of a variety of birds such as the stork and the giant kingfisher. The population of Malawi is around 12 million. English and Chichewa are both official languages.

## Points of Interest

### Lake Malawi

Malawi is dominated by the **third largest lake** in Africa which takes up a fifth of the whole country. Its nickname 'calendar lake' derives from its dimensions: it is 365 miles (590 kilometres) long and 52 miles (85 kilometres) wide. It is home to more than **500 different species of fish** – more than in North America and Europe combined! Most of them belong to the family of cichlids many of which are endemic to Lake Malawi. The clear waters of this lake are also one of the **world's premier fresh water dive and snorkelling spots**. Other water sports on offer include fishing, water skiing, windsurfing and sailing. A particularly nice beach where most travelers stop is **Kande Beach**.

### Lilongwe

Malawi's capital (since 1975) is divided into two parts: the New and the Old City. The first has all the typical capital things like hotels and offices whereas the older part has markets and bus

## Country Information - ZAMBIA

### Facts

Capital:	Lusaka
Size:	752 614 sq km / 290 586 sq miles
Population:	11,261,795 (Sept. 05)

Groups: Native African, European  
Languages: English, Bemba, Kaonda, Lozi, Lunda, Luvale, Mambwe, Nyanja, Ngoni, Tonga, Tumbuka  
Local time: GMT + 2  
Seasons: Warm and rainy (November-April), cool and dry (May-August), hot and dry (September/October)  
Currency: 1 Zambian Kwacha = 100 Ngwee  
Telephone: Country code 260 , international access code 00  
Electricity: 220 V / 230 V / 50 Hz, round pin attachment plug, round pins with ground or rectangular blade plug

Formerly Northern Rhodesia, Zambia is made up of a highland plateau (approximately 1000 metres above sea level) which rises toward the east and which - in the north, along the border of Zaire - houses enormous reserves of copper, cobalt, coal, zinc and lead, the mining of which is of extreme importance to the economy. Tourism is of increasing importance with the magnificent Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River marking the border with Zimbabwe. The game parks of Zambia, although not so well known as those of Kenya and Tanzania, are large and well stocked with wildlife of all types. The long standing leader Kenneth Kaunda was defeated in elections in 1991, the country's first multi-party elections in 19 years, and today Zambia is one of Africa's newest democracies - although it is struggling to maintain living standards at a time when earnings from its mineral exports are dropping.

## Points of Interest

### Victoria Falls

'Mosi-oa-Tunya' - the smoke that thunders is what the locals call Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and a World Heritage Site. The **waterfalls** are 1,708 meters wide and drop between 90 metres and 107 metres into the Batoka Gorge and an average of 550,000 cubic metres of water plunge over the edge every minute. Even from as far as 70 kilometres away this spectacle can be seen. Batoka Gorge also forms the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe. David Livingstone first came here in 1855 and reported about 'Scenes so lovely, they must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight'.

Today, visitors come here not only to look at the waterfall, but also to experience it in different ways. From Livingstone (named after the explorer), you can book activities like white water rafting, river boarding, jet boating, bungee jumping, canoeing, helicopter flights, sunset cruises and elephant back safaris.

## Country Information – BOTSWANA

### Facts

Capital: Gaborone  
Size: 585 370 sq km / 363 809 sq miles  
Population: 1,815,508 (Sept. 07)  
Groups: Tswana, Kalanga, Basarwa, Kgalagadi, European  
Languages: English, Setswana, Kalanga, Sekgalagadi  
Local time: GMT + 2  
Seasons: Dry (April-August), rainy (November-March)  
Currency: 1 Pula (BWP) = 100 Thebe (pula = rain; thebe = raindrops)  
Telephone: Country code 267, international access code 00  
Electricity: 230 V / 50 Hz, round pins with ground or rectangular blade plug

Although vast, semi arid and empty, Botswana has prospered since independence and is comparatively well off in relation to its neighbour's - especially those to the north. The economy relies on mining (Botswana supplies de Beers with over 50% of its diamonds), cattle ranching and tourism. Although relations with South Africa have been strained, Botswana is heavily reliant on that country for its rail, air and sea links. The Okavango Delta in the north west of the country is a major attraction, the water levels rising and falling annually with the rivers originating in the Angolan highlands. Perennially short of water, the word for Botswana's currency unit (one of the strongest currencies in Africa) is the same word for rain.

## Points of Interest

### Chobe National Park

This park, 11,000 sq kilometres in size is located in the north where Botswana meets Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Its main attraction are its 25,000 elephant population – part of a huge 'superpopulation' that exist across the northern belt of Botswana and the north west of neighbouring Zimbabwe. In this area elephant

numbers are thought to total 120,000 - the **highest concentration of elephants in the world**. The Chobe River, its floodplain and nearby teak forest marks the heart of the park and its here that animals come to drink and bathe. Besides elephant, you will also come across antelope, buffalo, crocodile, lion, hippo and a number of birds including the African fish eagle. They are best spotted at the end of the day during **game viewing boat cruises**. In the southern part of Chobe lies the Savuti region which is particularly good for game watching; ancient **San rock paintings** can also be found here.

### Okavango Delta Reserve

The 16,000 sq kilometres big Okavango Delta is the **largest inland delta in the world** and known to the locals as 'the river which never finds the sea'. Most of the Okavango River, which originates in the highlands of east-central Angola, terminates here. These natural wetlands are a massive inland system of natural reed filled water channels, lagoons and islands. The delta consists of 4 parts: the Inner Delta, the Eastern Delta, Moremi Game Reserve and the Okavango Panhandle. Most people use Maun as a base for their visit.

The delta is best explored by **mokoro (traditional dug out canoe)** where so-called 'polers' guide you through the labyrinth of channels, standing like gondoliers at the rear of the boat. An alternative is to fly over the reserve for a bird's eye view. The Okavango is a **birder's paradise**, home to huge numbers of waterfowl and raptors, but you also find elephant, zebra, buffalo, wildebeest, giraffe, hippo, crocodile, lion and kudu here.

### Makgadikgadi Pan

The Makgadikgadi Pan is made up of a number of salt pans and is considered the **largest salt flat complex in the world**. Formerly one of Africa's super lakes, its main pans are Sua and Ntwetwe and they cover an area of approx 12,000 sq kilometres. The pans make stunning scenery regardless of the season. During the dry season they shimmer under hot sun and present flat, white, open vistas in all directions, save the occasional aging baobab. During the rains they fill with shallow water and attract huge varieties of animal and birdlife.

### Khama Rhino Sanctuary

This sanctuary of 4300 hectares was established in 1992 to help the preservation of rhinos. Today, 34 **white rhino** and 2 black rhino live in this natural habitat. They can be watched on a game drive through the sanctuary, along with other wildlife such as zebra, blue wildebeest, giraffe, eland, springbok, impala, gemsbok, kudu, steenbok, leopard, African wild cat and black backed jackal.

## Country Information – SOUTH AFRICA

### Facts

Capital:	Pretoria (official), Bloemfontein (judicial), and Cape Town (legislative)
Size:	1 219 090 sq km / 470 693 sq miles
Population:	44,344,136 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	African/Black, White (mainly of Afrikaner and British origin), Coloured, Indian/Asian
Languages:	English, Afrikaans, Ndebele, Xhosa, Zulu, Pedi, Sotho, Tswana, Swati, Venda, Tsonga (all 11 are official languages)
Local time:	GMT + 2
Seasons:	Western Cape: warm (September-April), cold and wet (May-August); East coast: humid all year; Northern provinces: wet (September-April), dry (May-August)
Currency:	1 South African Rand = 100 Cents
Telephone:	Country code 27, international access code 09
Electricity:	220 V / 230 V / 250 V / 50 Hz, the plug fits a 15A socket with three round pins

South Africa is a country rich in minerals, with abundant wildlife and spectacular scenery; a land of beauty with a social and political structure that is anything but! A country having three capitals - Pretoria the Administrative, Cape Town the Legislative, and Bloemfontein the Judicial. Having by far the most developed and sophisticated economy on the continent, South Africa is essential to many of the neighbouring countries as an avenue for exports, and a provider of electricity and high tech products. A good network of roads and an abundance of high quality camp sites (as well as beautiful scenery) makes travelling in and around South Africa an easy and very rewarding experience.

## Points of Interest

### Johannesburg

Looking at the modern façade of South Africa's capital it is hard to imagine that it is merely over a hundred years old. It started to boom after gold was found in the area and therefore is still referred to as the **gold capital of the world**. Besides its great shopping and nightlife, Johannesburg is a good base for daytrips.

Things to do within **Johannesburg city** are the views from the top of the Carlton Centre, Museum Afrika, the Market Theatre precinct, Hillbrow and Houghton Gold Reef City (a replica of Johannesburg as an old gold mining town), tribal dancing, street theatres and amusement parks.

You can also go on a **Soweto township tour** where you visit a township, the Hector Petersen monument, apartheid museum and a local shebeen (pub).

At the nearby **Lion breeding park** you can see cheetah, zebra, giraffe and cuddle lion cubs.

## ACACIA ON THE ROAD – NEWS & EVENTS

### FOOTBALL'S COMING TO AFRICA

**In line with the 2010 Football World Cup, in Cape Town, Acacia's keeping its eye on the ball. We've got together with the charity Footballs for Fun to spread some goodwill and love for the beautiful game across the continent. In 2008 all our trucks will carry footballs which can be bought and donated to children in the local towns along our route. The footballs are a perfect ice breaker and a game with locals is a great way to make friendships despite language differences. And all the profit (at least £2 from each ball) goes straight back into Africa, helping support a selection of AIDS charities and children's homes. Make a difference, get kicking and buy a ball when you're next on one of our trucks.**



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